AGM Comberton Squash 2017

10th July 2017

Bourn Hall

Present:-

1. Dave Bradbury
2. Graham Broughton
3. Sue Crossley
4. Andy D'Alessandro
5. Fizz Elmes
6. Stuart Elmes (chair)
7. Chris Golding
8. Nick Harris
9. Mike Macnamee
10. Alistair Maclean
11. Paul Naylor
12. Andy Smith
13. Debra Stephenson
14. Neil Stutchbury
15. Steve Swanton
16. Martyn Symmons
17. Andy Thorne
18. Ollie Thorne
19. Colin Walker

Apologies: Andrew McIntyre, Ashok Babbar, Sarah Wheeler.

1. Minutes of 2016 AGM,

were accepted as an accurate record.

2. Matters arising,

none.

3. Honorary Officers' reports:

a. Chairman.

Stuart Elmes explained that the Committee had commenced the year by considering a series of aims and targets. These would be mentioned through the AGM. For example member recruitment targets, and aims to secure the lease agreement, and modernizing facilities

He gave special thanks to **Nick Harris** for his work on the lease and the 30yr security of tenure the Club now has. The entire meeting showed its appreciation of this.

b. Membership secretary

Dave Bradbury reported on the membership numbers which now reflect his work to make them more reliable.

He particularly mentioned the success of trial membership with 4 out of the 10 enroled through this now having taken up full membership and the others likely. There were 28 new members overall but with 60 not renewing. He reported some of the reasons given for not renewing. Some had moved to the re-located Cambridge Squash Club but many said time limitations had restricted their time to play squash. Few mentioned the facilities.

Actual numbers appeared stable, (*2014* 215; *2015* 187; *2016* 202; *2017* 187) but the Committee target of a net 20 increase had not been met. 4 in the trial membership were women and so that was a contribution to the +10 women membership target.

Dave also reported a detailed analysis on the actual booking of the courts which was dominated by school and coaching but was widely distributed in the membership otherwise.

c. Treasurer

Graham Broughton presented the audited Accounts for approval. Over all there was a small £664 deficit for this year slightly up on £390 last year. This may be owing to one off legal costs in securing the lease. But maintenance costs were lower than average.

Neil Stutchbury asked there was still a Club buffer fund and Graham said there was. Stuart pointed out that is important as the Club will likely need to find 10% towards grant funding.

The Accounts were approved by the meeting which also warmly supported Graham in his thanks to **Andy Smith** for auditing them.

d. Maintenance officer

Colin Walker reported that minor improvements over the year had ensured that the Club facilities were ticking over well for the playing members. No problems were raised by members present.

4. Junior Squash and CVC academy

Martyn Symmons and **Andy D'Alessandro** reported, on behalf of the entire voluntary coaching team, on Junior developments in the School and Club. Andy reported how the CVC academy had been extended to years 6 and 7 in addition to the sixth form, with actual squash coaching on the curriculum for the first time.

Martyn mentioned that Stuart had had encouraging discussions with CVC Head of Sport Mr Carrick although Stuart replied that **Sarah Wheeler,** who was our appointed School liaison officer, had not seen evidence of easy communication between Club and school team.

Martyn said Junior numbers were stable with players moving up through the session structure. We had not yet met the targets for qualified coaches but he paid tribute to the voluntary helpers who were effectively supporting the sessions.

One member **Zafer Bilen** had taken his level I qualification and **Casey Miller** would soon be taking her level II.

5. Members' Views – Survey Results and Conclusions.

Stuart reviewed the results from the on-line survey of Club members (see presentation on the Club website). This had had a high response and included ways that the Club might be improved. There was a clear interest in new activities and competitions through the year. Stuart highlighted areas where women members' views differed from the males. One feature of the improvement plans that had general support was a move to a single unisex toilet.

6. Proposals for Club Renovation and Renewal

Neil Stutchbury described the proposals for Improvements to the Club Facilities which could be supported by grant applications.

The final aim is a fresh modern feel to the Club. Supported by two separate funding Schemes which were available: REN community funding which was especially focussed on energy improvements and Sport England aiming for a total of £100k. For this approach the plan needed to be delivered as two essentially independent projects.

Neil outlined four possible improved layout options for the Club Which were extensively discussed by the meeting (see presentation on the Club website): Option A, minimum change but extensive renovation and glass back at Court 1.; Option B, unisex toilet to allow greater viewing space and a more open plan feel; Option C, move entrance to give better access to Club; and finally Option D with Court 3 as show court and a large viewing/social area immediately at Club entrance.

Option D that was particularly well received by those at the meeting.

Discussion: Neil pointed out that it was very difficult to split Option D into the two fundable areas.

Nick Harris said that he considered D the obvious best candidate and if not easily supported by grants then another funding method might be possible: perhaps member support or guarantees.

Chris Golding pointed out that the Club had done this before.

Neil agreed this was possible and might cover for the case that any one of the grants was successful.

Colin said currently detailed costing work had been limited so only estimates were available.

Chris said is also favoured either option A focused on services upgrade or go for the most ambitious option D.

Andy D'Alessandro asked about including extra glass backed courts.

Stuart pointed out that members had specifically said to him that not everyone wants to be on show on a glass-backed court.

Deborah Stephenson also supported option D.

Stuart said that given the feedback the committee should perhaps revisit D. options.

Chris asked could the Club borrow money? And Nick Harris said perhaps the Cambridge Rugby Club example was helpful where some members acted as guarantors.

Andy pointed out that a glass-backed court could be a generator of increased membership numbers.

7. Club Constitution Changes

Stuart explained that possible grant applications can only be possible changes to the Constitution. In particular a 'dissolution clause'.

The proposed changes were supported unanimously by the meeting. With the option for further changes if motivated by subsequent AGM decisions.

8. Membership subscriptions and guest fees.

Graham presented the proposed subscription rates for the membership categories. These were an approximately 3% increase over the previous year.

He proposed that in general the next year's payments should be collected by monthly direct debit using a simple and cheap on-line system.

After discussion, the increase and the change to direct debit was agreed by the meeting, although it was proposed that existing members should be allowed to continue to pay by cheque or one-off transfer as previously if they so wished

Graham had proposed Guest fees to be set as £5 per person but after discussion the meeting instead suggested making them gratis for the coming season. The feeling of the meeting that it encourages new membership.

ACTION: the committee to consider and revise policy on guests.

Dave pointed out that changes to the constitution should include details on time rulings for direct debit payment.

9. Club Captain's report.

Alistair Maclean reported on a fairly successful season for both ladies and mixed teams. In terms of plans for next season he said he would propose the continued line-up of ladies and mixed teams.

He described how the 1st team had been within sight of promotion to the 1st division before being hit by a run of injury and other losses of key players.

Mike Macnamee pointed out the large number of members involved in the teams. **Fizz Elmes** commented that all games were competitive at moment despite the absence of a team in the premier division. **Martyn Symmons** highlighted Andy's essential involvement at the level of team training as well as a player.

Nick Harris, Chris Golding, and Andy D'Alessandro said that it should be possible to attract players to make a division 1 team possible in the near future.

10. Elections of Committee and Honorary Oficers.

All Committee members and Honorary officers were returned for the coming year.

11. AOB

Mike Macnamee thanked Stuart and the committee for awarding him the Sally Woods trophy this year. He also proposed a social event at Bourn Hall perhaps a barbeque and rounders event.

The Committee thanked Mike for that offer and also for his excellent hospitality for the AGM.